

substantially easier to detect than the markers used in Chiesl, which would allow the claimed invention to introduce much less marker into the slurry when compared to the processing described in Chiesl. Thus, since Chiesl would have to use substantially more marker material than the claimed invention, one ordinarily skilled in the art who followed the teachings of Chiesl could see a detrimental polishing effect caused by the marker. To the contrary, the claimed invention defined by dependent claims 6 and 13 clearly states that the marker does "not affect a polishing capability of said slurry." Thus, Applicants submit that dependent claims 6 and 13 show novelty on their own independent of independent claims 1 and 8.

Therefore, as shown above, it is Applicants position that claims 1-4 and 6-14 are patentable over the applied prior art of record. In view the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

II. Formal Matters and Conclusion

With respect to the objection to claim 6, the claim has been amended, above, to remove the typographical error to overcome the objection. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the claims.

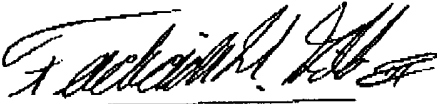
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-4 and 6-14, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit
Account Number 09-0458.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/10/04


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